New Export-Import Policy

3105. SHRI ANANTA SETHI :Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced new Export-Import Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to review the policy; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI. MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, In the revised EXIM Policy (RE-2000), 1997–2002 notified on 31-3-2000, Government has taken various measures to promote exports. These include setting up Special Economic Zones, rationalistion of existing export promotion schemes (EPCG and Duty Exemption/Remission Scheme), encouragement to export of quality/branded goods, procedural simplifications, de-centralisation in decision making and reduction of interface between exporters and Government organisations through the facility of electronic filing of applications at several port offices.

(c) and (d) The annual policy changes are announced only after an elaborate process of consultations with the trade and industry and various ministries of Government of India. There is no proposal for the present to review the Policy changes announced on 31-3-2000.

Violation of Explosives Act

3106. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many cases which have come to light regarding violation of the provisions of Explosives Act, during each of the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) 371 cases (139 in 1998-99 and 232 in 1999-2000) of violation of the provisions of the Explosives Act, 1884 and Explosives Rules, 1983 were reported during the last two years.